THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the estimates prepared by World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), total travel & tourism economy employment (direct & indirect) in India during 2004 has been 24.46 million. Its share of the world tourist travel is 0.44%.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized a National Conference on Tourism: "The Monsoon India" in July, 2005 at New Delhi with the objective to showcase that monsoon is the most romantic and vibrant season of the year; that it is in this time when nature is at its glorious peak with lush green vegetation bringing about a natural freshness in the surroundings, and; how attractive packages can be designed to attract tourists during Monsoon. The deliberations at the Conference highlighted how the monsoon season in India can be promoted as the happening season for tourists and what is so unique about this season in our country.

Growth in tourism industry in southern region

208. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey carried out by Confederation of Indian Industry, Southern Region has revealed that the tourism sector posted the highest growth of 25 per cent last year;

(b) whether the objective of the survey was to analyse the performance of the top five sectors in each of these States during 2004-05 and identify their issues and concerns;

(c) whether tourism industry in Kerala reported an over 25 per cent growth in profits in 2004-05 despite tsunami threat;

(d) if so, what are the other main features of the study and whether Government have considered the survey report; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) According to the Business Outlook Survey carried out by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Southern Region,

the Tourism Industry in Kerala reported over 25% growth in profits during 2004-05.

(b) The objective of the survey was to review the performance of five key sectors in each of the Southern States for the year 2004-05 and forecast outlook for 2005-06, identify bottlenecks and recommend measures for accelerating growth.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) As per the information received from CII, tourism sector was taken up for study only in the States fo Kerala and Pondicherry, and reports have been sent to State Governments. Major findings in the two States were as under:-

Sl.No.	Factor	Tourism Industry view for 2004-05	
		Kerala	Pondicherry
(i)	Inflow of Tourists	Increased (Upto 10%)	Increased (15-20%)
(ii)	Foreign Exchange	Increased (15-20%)	Increased (15-20%)
(iii)	Profits	Increased (over 25%)	Increased (upto 10%)
(iv)	Employment	Increased (Upto 15%)	Increased (15-20%)

Development of tourism in Uttaranchal

209. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Uttaranchal propose to go all-out to develop its tourism sector for economic prosperity of the area;

(b) if so, the details of their action plan;

(c) the details of financial and other help that has been rendered to the State to achieve the objective;

(d) whether Government also propose to extend such help to the cash-strapped Orissa to exploit its tourism potential to improve its economy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?